

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application.

Claims 1-45 are pending. Claims 13-15, 28-30, and 43-45 have been rejected. Claims 1-12, 16-27, and 31-42 have been allowed.

No claims have been currently amended.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the applicability of the Doctrine of equivalents.

Claims 13-15 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of copending Application No. 10/773,054.

Claims 28-30 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 14-18 of copending Application No. 10/773,054.

Claims 43-45 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 27-30 of copending Application No. 10/773,054.

Applicants have filed herewith a terminal disclaimer for this patent application (No. 10/721,445) in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). This patent application is commonly owned with co-pending Application No. 10/773,054. It is submitted that the terminal disclaimer filed herewith overcomes the provisional rejections stated above for claims 13-15, 28-30, and 43-45.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeremy A. Schweigert at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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